Mr. Fletcher Prouty
4201 Peachtree Pl Place
Alexandria, VA 22304

5/20/91

Dear Feltch,

Thanks for your valuable letter of the 17th and the enclosures I look forward to reading carefully. I respond in haste because I may in a few minutes have the help I need to get the daylilies off the top of the septic tank that urgently needs attention. I'm not able to do much work, none in any way heavy. Considering everything, I feel as well as it is possible for me to feel with all the things wrong. I'm glad you can do the lawn. I can use the riding mower about 20-30 minutes at a time but if any more it knocks me out. Can't use pushmowers at all and my, is some of the rougher ground on this moutainside getting lush!

I'm a bit older than you. Last month I was 78. And do I remember the years 1937-41 to which you refer! And a few before them! Yes, today's younger people missed a chance to learn much first-hand that we had.

Before I have a chance to forget, if I understand what you have in mind for your book, speak to The National Security Archive. They have much material that is relevant and they released some at one of the conferences between USSR people and some of ours relating to what I think of and refer to as the Cuba, not Cuban, Missile Crisis. I have some clippings and there have been published texts of some of those conferences.

I did confuse you, and I'm sorry. Aside from NSAMs, which were unknown to us at the time, I was referring to two stories I once had, both short and from the Washington Post.

Several days before the assassination the first said that our involvement in Vietnam had been re-evaluated and as a result we could begin to withdraw our "advisers." And about three days later there was the second short story, attributed to the Pentagon. That is what said that the re-evaluation had been re-evaluated and found to be optimistic. I do not know what the basis for that release was and in writing you I probably assumed it was another NSAM.

I had planned a book, Tiger to Ride. It would have said that by precipitating the Cuba Missile Crisis Khruschev gave JFK his own tiger to ride. Would have given him the choice of avpiding or having another world war.

Che Guevara and Raul Castro had gone to Moscow, June or July, 1962, and invoked the one-sided agreement they had, as we did with our puny client states, called "mutual assistance" by us. There was nothing the USSR could do to prevent the planned invasion of Cuba, nothing it could do to defend Cuba that would hot have resulted in Cuba being wiped out. My belief was and is that Khruschev took this way of passing the buck, the decision, to JFK. Who, along, belatedly, with Bobby, came to understand it. After it sas over they began a lenghty correspondence, something like 40 letters. The USSR is willing to release them, our government opposes it, and there is a case in court on disclosing them now. Adlai Stevenson and initially McCone understood it correctly, but his people

turned McCone around. And was Stevenson, then at the UN, really clobbered for being right! By those who were so very wrong.

Most of the research I had is scattered. I loaned it to Howard Roffman. He did return some. It included, and I know this seems like boasting, a contemporaneous and correct Tonkin Gulf analysis. I add that there were then a few other things of similar character that did not take off, aimed at Cuba. Remember Barry Goldwater and the Guantanamo water? Followed out seizure of some Cuban fishing boats.

I did have what Hilsman, Scali and a few others wrote and if you do not recall, both Sorensen and Schlesinger books went into great detail about White House meetings on Cuba.

If the Hood College library does not have the Gravel edition of the Pentagon Papers I think they'll be able to borrow what you refer me to, thanks, and they may have Zapata.

Clearly, I misunderstood what # 263 is and I'm glad to be set straight, thanks.

By the way, I've started a NSAM file and I'll put an x-ref in it to your enclosures.

For your book, you may also want to keep in mind that before he was assassinated JFK had enunciated a policy of not recognizing military dictatorships that overthrew democratically-elected government. After JFK was killed the Dominican military overthrew Juan Bosch and then there was an attempt to kick the military out. LBJ sent the Marines in and the Navy down there. The only book I remember reading on this is Tad Sculc's and between that and his book on Cuba and his misidentifying "Eduardo" in the New York Times in the earliest Watergate days I've often wondered if he had been CIA. If you've forgotten, he misidentified Eduardo, who he knew was Hunt, as Barker. Soon he was no longer with the Times and I wondered if he'd been fired over that.

No help here yet and I'd better see if I can do a little mowing and then rest a bit. If I think of anything more I'll add it. I do hope you can keep going on that book! It can be so important! Especially with all the revisionism.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold

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